

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 7023

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR S/S FRANK WISNER AND AF FOR HARROP ONLY FROM MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: EVENING READING ITEM

1. CY VANCE DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF AFRICAN SUBJECTS WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD THIS AFTER-NOON. ACCORDING TO GUIRINGAUD, GISCARD PERSONALLY HAS CONCLUDED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE WEST TO RESTORE RELATIONS WITH NETO AND SPECIFICALLY THAT THIS IS A MORE PROMISING STRATEGY THAN SUPPORT FOR SAVIMBI. GUIRINGAUD SAID THAT "PLAYING SAVIMBI AGAINST NETO IS A LOST GAME" AND THAT WE HAVE A BETTER CHANCE TO PLAY LUANDA AGAINST THE SOVIETS RATHER THAN FIGHTING NETO WHICH WILL ONLY SERVE TO INCREASE SOVIET AND CUBAN INFLUENCE. THE FRENCH WILL ALSO SEEK TO DISSUADE MOBUTO FROM SUPPORTING HOLDEN ROBERTO. CY TOLD DE GUIRINGAUD HE AGREED WITH THIS ANALYSIS AND THAT WE WANTED TO WORK WITH THE FRENCH IN SEEKING STABILIZED RELATIONS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE.

2. ON THE HORN, CY TOLD DE GUIRINGAUD THAT WE ARE CONCERNED OVER SIAD BARRE'S CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR SOMALI INSURGENTS IN THE OGADEN. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID
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THE FRENCH SHARE OVER CONCERN AND WANT TO MAINTAIN THEIR RELATIONS WITH MENGISTU. IN THIS CONNECTION, THEY HAVE ASKED SIAD TO POSTPONE A PROPOSED VISIT TO FRANCE AND ARE CURRENTLY EXPECTING A HIGH-LEVEL MISSION FROM ETHIOPIA. THE FRENCH SAY THAT DESPITE SOME OF HIS BEHAVIOR THEY BELIEVE MENGISTU HAS QUALITIES WHICH MAY ENABLE US TO WORK WITH HIM. THE FRENCH BELIEVE WE CAN

"PLAY THE SAME GAME WITH MENGISTU" THAT THEY PROPOSE WITH REGARD TO NETO. THE FRENCH BASE THIS APPROACH ON THEIR BELIEF THAT THE ETHIOPIANS WILL HAVE REAL PROBLEMS WITH THE SOVIETS AND THE CUBANS OVER ERITREA.

3. THE FRENCH ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER THE PROBLEM OF PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO THE AFRICAN FORCES NEWLY ARRIVED IN SHABA. WHILE THE MOROCCAN FORCES ARE WELL EQUIPPED, THE OTHER AFRICANS ARE VERY SHORT OF VEHICLES, RIFLES, AMMUNITION AND OTHER MINOR EQUIPMENT. IN RESPONSE TO A STRONG FRENCH APPEAL FOR HELP, CY POINTED OUT THAT SERIOUS LEGAL OBSTACLES TO OUR PROVIDING ANY TYPE OF EQUIPMENT TO THE AFRICAN FORCES. HE SUGGESTED WE APPROACH THE PROBLEM ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS AND THE FRENCH AGREED TO PROVIDE, WITHIN 48 HOURS, A SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT OF URGENT EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS. DE GUIRINGUAD SAID THERE IS NO OVERALL COORDINATION AMONG THE MOROCCAN AND AFRICAN FORCES AND IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES TOLD DICK MOOSE THE FRENCH ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER THE FUTURE OF THE NEW FORCES IN SHABA. CY SUGGESTED TO DE GUIRINGUAD THAT WE BEGIN THINKING ABOUT A TIME LIMIT ON THE PRESENCE OF THE OUTSIDE FORCES IN ZAIRE AND IT WAS AGREED WE WOULD ASSESS THE SITUATION JOINTLY.

4. NOTE: THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN
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CLEARED WITH MR. VANCE.
VANCE

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